

KING SPAWN®



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DIGITAL
EDITION



KING SPAWN



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FINCH
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EDITION

KING SPAWN®



Cates
McFARLANE



PENCILLER
TITLE

King Spawn

INKER
ISSUE #



MONTH

EDITOR
TITLE CODE

COVER

KING SPAWN®



MINIMUM BLEED 1/4" ALL AROUND

LITH AREA

KING SPAWN®



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TODD McFARLANE ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE

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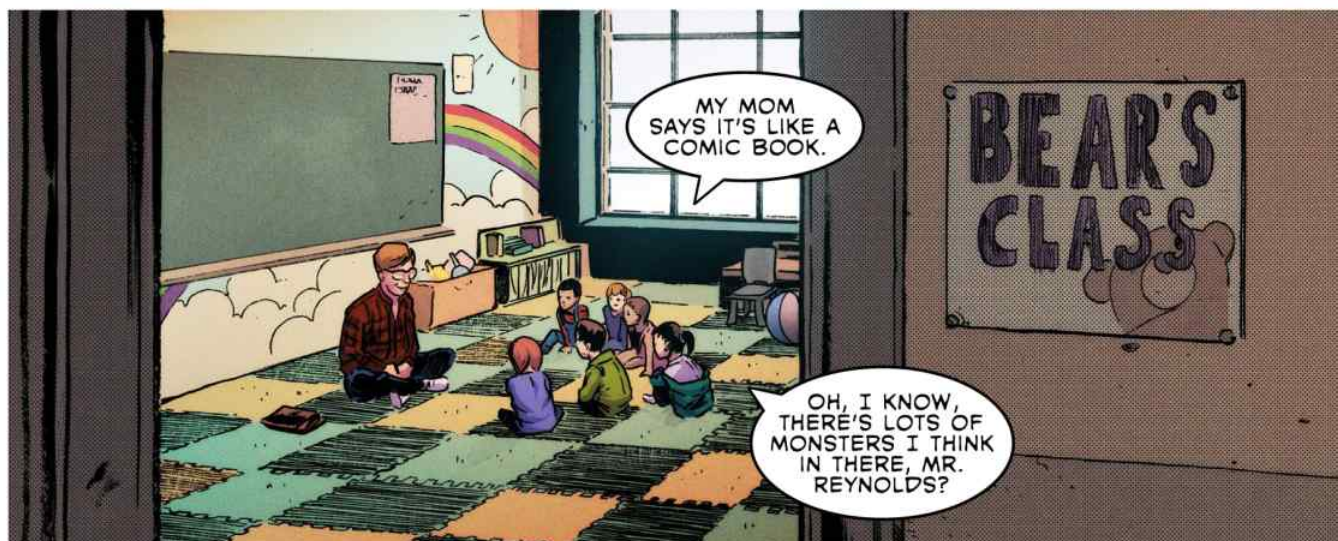
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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE



TODD McFARLANE





"...WHO *TAKETH* AND
SLAMS THY LITTLE
ONES AGAINST THE
STONES."

"THIS IS HOW THEY ALWAYS
START--BY TARGETING,
THEN FEASTING, IN AS
SPECTACULAR FASHION
AS THEY CAN ON THOSE
TOO INNOCENT TO
DEFEND THEMSELVES."



"AND THE SADDEST PART IS HUMANITY IS UNAWARE THAT HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE BEEN ATTACKING THEM FOR CENTURIES."



"SOMETIMES JUST FOR SPORT."



"OTHER TIMES WITH SPECIFIC PURPOSE...."



"...TO DRAW OUT THEIR ENEMY."



JESSICA PRIEST A.K.A. SHE-
SPAWN. FORMER GOVERNMENT
BLACK-OPS AGENT.

I CHECKED WITH
ONE OF MY CONTACTS IN
D.C.--THEIR INVESTIGATION
SHOWS NO PRIOR RECORD
FOR THAT TEACHER. HE
TAUGHT THIRTY YEARS
WITHOUT INCIDENT.

SO, HE JUST
ASCENDS TO THE
PEARLY GATES WITH
HIS ARMS FULL OF
TROPHIES?

THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THINK, THOSE
CHILDREN
WERE...
TROPHIES?

NOT
TO ME. TO
THEM.

AL,
DO YOU
READ?

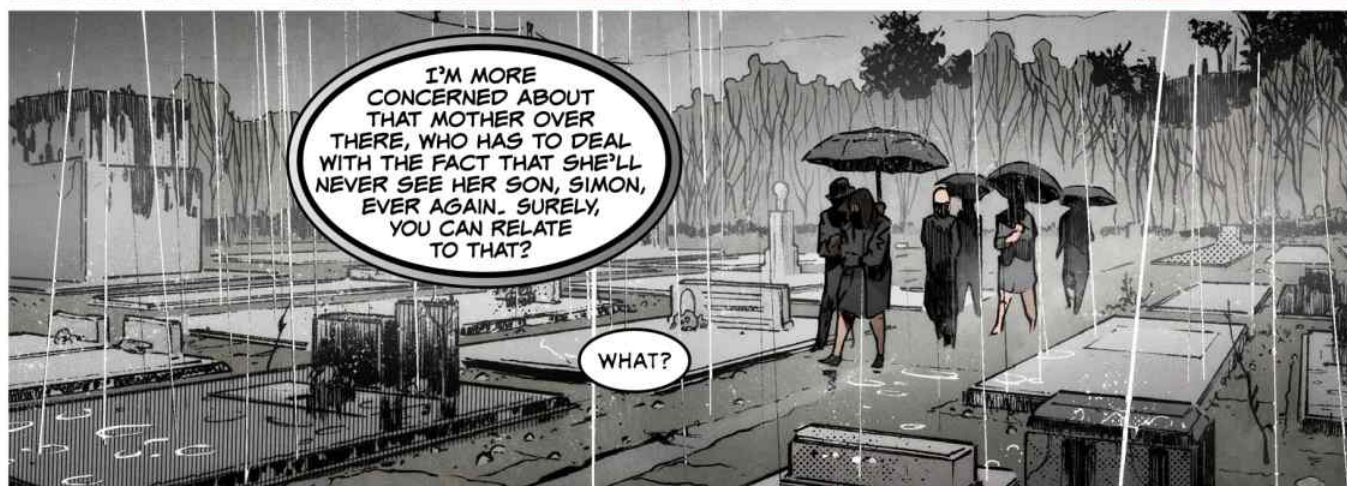
I'VE
SEARCHED,
BUT I'M NOT SEEING
ANY CONNECTIONS TO
"SHADOW PLAYERS."
I THINK THIS IS
ALL HUMAN.

THEN
LOOK
AGAIN.

I'VE
BEEN OVER
IT FIVE
TIMES...

THEN
DO IT A SIXTH.
I'M WATCHING A
MOTHER BURYING
HER SON. MY GUT
SAYS IF WE CAN'T
FIND SOMETHING,
THIS'LL HAPPEN
AGAIN.







IT'S CALLED A "SIGIL," AND THAT SYMBOL TELLS THE WHOLE PROPHECY OF WHAT THE PERSON BEHIND THIS IS PLANNING.

HAVE YOU DECIPHERED IT?



NOT COMPLETELY, BUT PART OF IT SAYS THIS WON'T BE THE ONLY ATTACK. I'LL NEED OTHER SHADOW AGENTS TO DECODE THE REST.



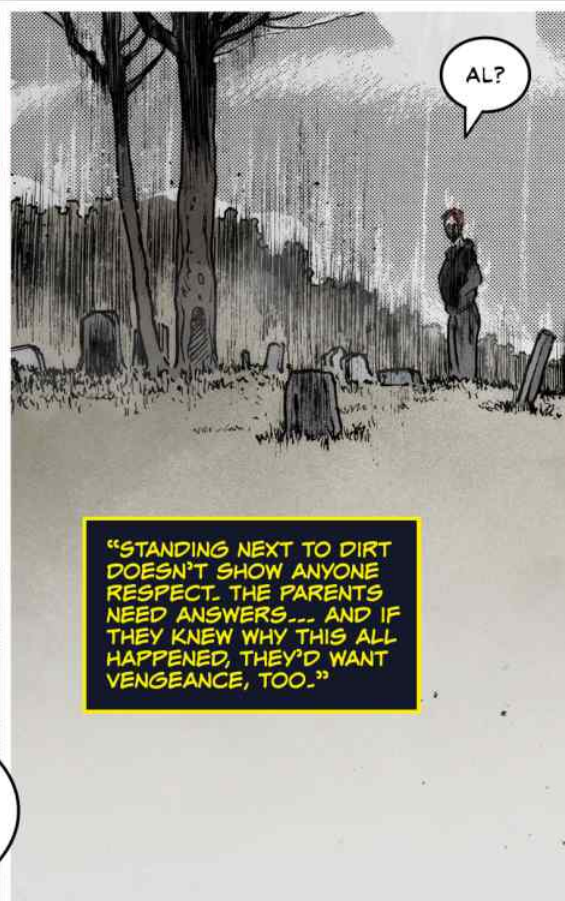
YOU'RE SAYING THEY KILLED A BUNCH OF KIDS JUST TO GET YOUR ATTENTION?

I TOLD YOU, WE'RE DEALING WITH THE SOULLESS.



I...

I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS NOW. IF WE'RE PART OF THE REASON THOSE KIDS ARE DEAD, LEAST WE CAN DO IS PAY OUR RESPECTS.



AL?

"STANDING NEXT TO DIRT DOESN'T SHOW ANYONE RESPECT. THE PARENTS NEED ANSWERS... AND IF THEY KNEW WHY THIS ALL HAPPENED, THEY'D WANT VENGEANCE, TOO."

ZEALOT19 15 mins ago
Yes god Metatron has struck!!!!

SONICisnotaHEDGEHOG 15 mins ago
Fucking troll. Kids are DEAD!

thetruthisoutthere 14 mins ago
Well he has a point kids die
every day and ppl don't care

BIGMEECH 13 mins ago
Where was that big hombre
Spawn thought his gig was
stopping that shit or does
he just do photo shoots

ZEALOT19 13 mins ago
This will not be the last attack!

SONICisnotaHEDGEHOG 13 mins ago
Out of the comments asshole!

BIGMEECH 12 mins ago
Not me Bot. I tap that and you
dump porn in my hard drive

CHLOE (Admin) 10 mins ago
User what's your name?

ZEALOT19 12 mins ago
Follow the link... psalms.link

UNKNOWN USER 11 mins ago
What if Spawn is watching you?

BIGMEECH 10 mins ago
Yo, the user total hasn't gone
up. It still says there are four of
us and the admin. But there's 5.

SONICisnotaHEDGEHOG 9 mins ago
Wtf creepy

thetruthisoutthere 9 mins ago
I'm live recording

UNKNOWN USER 8 mins ago
Zealot tell me about psalms.

ZEALOT19 8 mins ago
Fuck you! We are legion!

UNKNOWN USER 7 mins ago
Tell your LEGION I'm
coming for all of you.

CHLOE (Admin) 6 mins ago
He's gone? What the hell
was that. I'm closing the
room for the night.

ZEALOT19 6 mins ago
There will be more
dead kiddies!!!!!!

SONICisnotaHEDGEHOG 5 mins ago

BIGMEECH 3 mins ago
Fuck I wished it'd
just been porn.



"TIME'S AGAINST ME.
I CAN FEEL THEIR
CLOCK TICKING."



"THE SIGIL ALSO
SAYS THERE'S A LIST
SOMEWHERE--FILES
WITH NAMES OF EVERY
SHADOW PLAYER STUCK
HERE ON EARTH. THE
DEMONS AND ANGELS
HIDING IN HUMAN
SKIN AMONG US."

"I'M SURE THAT
BOMB-HAPPY
SCHOOL
TEACHER WAS
ONE OF THEM."

"WHOEVER HE
SERVED, THOSE THAT
PLANNED IT, THEY
WANT TO BE FOUND."

"HOPING THE MEDIA WILL
FILL THE AIRWAVES WITH
SENSATIONAL HEADLINES
ABOUT DEAD CHILDREN."

"FINE, THEY
CAN SAY THEIR
PRAYERS..."

"OR POLITICIANS ON TV
SAYING, 'THOUGHTS
AND PRAYERS.'"



"...AT SOME POINT, THOUGH, THEY'LL REALIZE GOD ISN'T ANSWERING ANY OF THEM."

I SWEAR TO GOD, SENATOR, IF YOU TRY MAKING THIS ABOUT ANYTHING BUT GRIEVING PARENTS AND INNOCENT CHILDREN, I'LL RUIN YOU! YOU HEAR ME? I'LL BURY YOU ON THE CHRISTMAS STRATEGY COMMITTEE 'TIL YOU BECOME TOTALLY IRRELEVANT.

AND I DON'T GIVE A SHIT IF YOU ARE JEWISH. NOW, **HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY PUBLICLY...**

"THE SCHOOL TEACHER WAS A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN AND INSPIRATION FOR OTHERS TO MODEL THEMSELVES FROM. YOUR HEART BREAKS FOR THE LOSS OF THOSE YOUNG CHILDREN, BUT YOU'RE CONSIDERING FORMING A NEW COMMITTEE INTO SCHOOL SAFETY." THEN ADD A BUNCH OF SENTIMENTAL WORDS AFTER THAT. IT'S THAT SIMPLE. NOW, GET THE F*CK OFF MY PHONE.

"I SWEAR TO GOD"? THAT WAS A NICE TOUCH.

GUESS I HAVE A HARD TIME FORGETTING MY ROOTS.

HEAVEN NEEDS MORE ARCHANGELS LIKE YOU MR. RAPHAEL.

I THINK YOU DESERVE A LITTLE REWARD FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

I'LL TAKE WHATEVER YOU'RE OFFERING, MISS LEVIATHAN.



HOW
DISAPPOINTED
WOULD YOUR MASTERS
BE IF THEY SAW THEIR
LOYAL SERVANTS IN THE
ARMS OF THEIR
ENEMIES?

SPAWN!

WHY'RE
YOU HERE,
WE HAD A
DEAL?

I NEED
YOU TO READ
THIS FOR ME,
SENATOR.



DON'T
LISTEN TO HIM,
HE DOESN'T HAVE
DOMINION
HERE.



CRACK

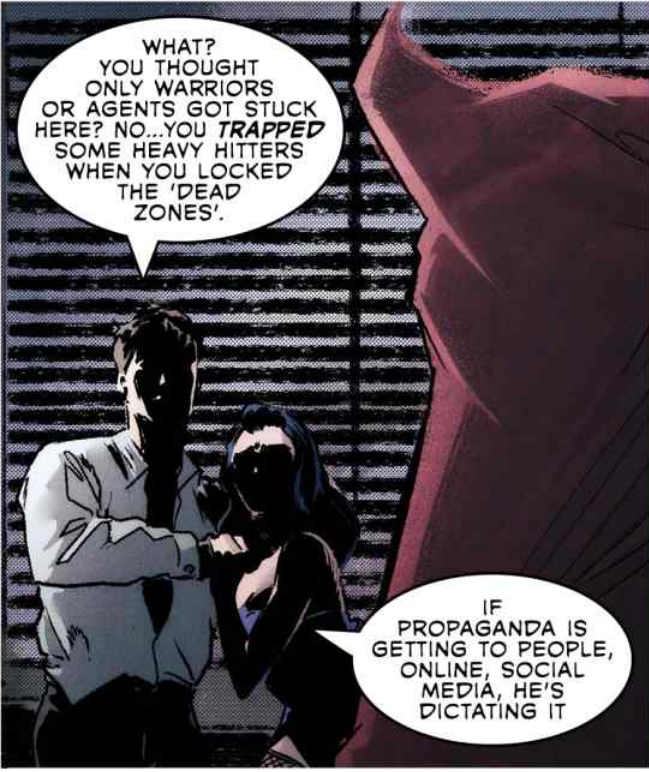
I BEG TO





METATRON!
THAT'S WHO IT IS, IT'S
METATRON!

HE'S ON
EARTH?



WHAT?
YOU THOUGHT
ONLY WARRIORS
OR AGENTS GOT STUCK
HERE? NO...YOU **TRAPPED**
SOME HEAVY HITTERS
WHEN YOU LOCKED
THE 'DEAD
ZONES'.

IF
PROPAGANDA IS
GETTING TO PEOPLE,
ONLINE, SOCIAL
MEDIA, HE'S
DICTATING IT



ANY
CLUE WHERE
HE MIGHT
BE?



THE SIGIL
INDICATES
IT'S THE SAME
PLACE WHERE
HELL BIRTHED
YOU.



NEW
YORK.

"METATRON.
I KNOW THE
LORE."

"HE WAS BORN HUMAN BUT
SOMEHOW CONNED HIS
WAY INTO BECOMING ONE
OF GOD'S HAND-PICKED
ANGELS. THE ONLY HUMAN
TO EVER DO SO."

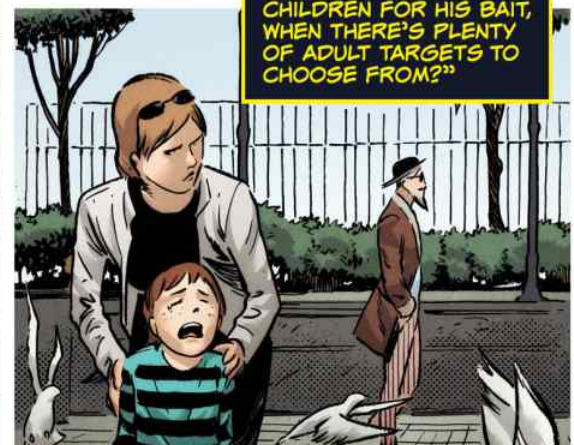
"HE ENDED UP LIKE I DID,
A PAWN TO BE TOYED
WITH BY HIS MASTER."



"BUT WHY NOW? IF
HE'S BEEN HERE **ALL**
THIS TIME, WHAT'S
TAKEN HIM SO LONG
TO MAKE HIS MOVE?"



"AND WHY USE
CHILDREN FOR HIS BAIT,
WHEN THERE'S PLENTY
OF ADULT TARGETS TO
CHOOSE FROM?"



"BUT HE CHOSE TO STAY AN
ANGEL, THAT'S WHERE WE
DIFFERED. HE ACTUALLY LIKED
BEING A SERVANT, BEING NEAR
GOD, AND ONE OF HIS GOALS
WAS ALWAYS TO BRING THE
HEAD OF A HELLSPAWN TO
THE ALTAR OF HIS GOD."





"AND ONCE I FIND HIM, THEN WHAT? METATRON'S VOCAL CORDS CAN DAMAGE HUMAN EARS WITH A WHISPER, DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'LL DO TO MY SYMBIOTE-COVERED EARS."



DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, SAM.

YOU THINK? JUST BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE'S HEADS USUALLY DON'T EXPLODE RANDOMLY, EVEN IF EVERY WITNESS CONFIRMED THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

AND YOU KNOW ME, I GET SKEPTICAL WHEN THINGS VEER THIS FAR FROM THE NORM.

HOW WE GOING TO HANDLE THIS, TWITCH? NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT A BAT SYMBOL OR ANYTHING.

HE'LL KNOW. DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT HE'S SOMEHOW ATTUNED TO THIS KIND OF STUFF.



"HAVEN'T CHECKED DOWN HERE IN A WHILE, NOT SINCE THEY ABANDONED THE CONSTRUCTION THAT SITS RIGHT ON TOP OF THIS 'DEAD ZONE'. THE PLAN WAS TO HIDE THIS PORTAL... EVEN IF IT'S INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE.

"I GOT DUMPED HERE WHEN MALEBOLGIA FIRST TURNED ME INTO SPAWN.

"A LIGHT? EVEN THIS SEEMS TOO OBVIOUS FOR A POMPOUS ASS LIKE METATRON.

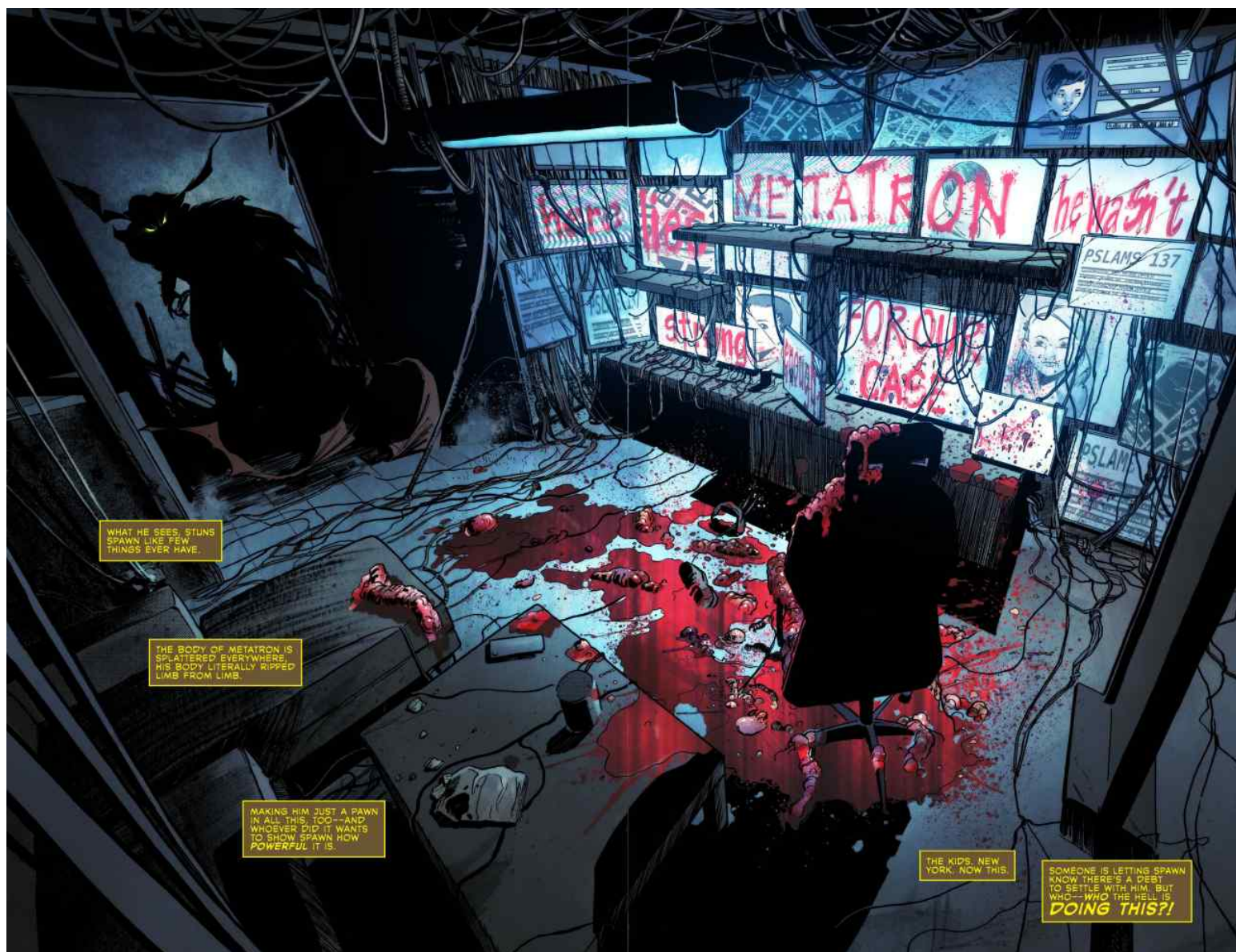


"WHICH MAKES THIS A TRAP."



CLIK





WHAT HE SEES, STUNS SPAWN LIKE FEW THINGS EVER HAVE.

THE BODY OF METATRON IS SPLATTERED EVERYWHERE. HIS BODY LITERALLY RIPPED LIMB FROM LIMB.

MAKING HIM JUST A PAWN IN ALL THIS, TOO--AND WHOEVER DID IT WANTS TO SHOW SPAWN HOW POWERFUL IT IS.

THE KIDS. NEW YORK. NOW THIS.

SOMEONE IS LETTING SPAWN KNOW THERE'S A DEBT TO SETTLE WITH HIM. BUT WHO--WHO THE HELL IS DOING THIS?!



FEDERAL AGENTS, TODAY, RELEASED NEW INFORMATION FROM THEIR INVESTIGATION INTO THE SCHOOL BOMBING IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON LAST WEEK. THAT BOMBING KILLED SIXTEEN PEOPLE INCLUDING FOURTEEN CHILDREN AGED FIVE OR SIX YEARS OLD. THE INVESTIGATORS SAID THAT AFTER TRACING SOME OF THE CHEMICALS USED IN THAT EXPLOSION, THEY SEARCHED A RECENTLY ABANDONED APARTMENT WHERE THEY SEIZED DOZENS OF HARD DRIVES THAT ARE POTENTIALLY CONNECTED TO AN UNDERGROUND RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT CALLING ITSELF PSALMS 137.



ALLEGEDLY, POLICE FOUND BIBLICAL PASSAGES TAPED ONTO WALLS OF THE APARTMENT. AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE SAID THE BIBLE PASSAGES SEEMED TO REFERENCE CHILDREN AND MURDER. NO MOTIVES HAVE BEEN GIVEN AT THIS TIME, BUT THERE ARE GROWING CONCERNS THAT THESE TYPES OF HATE GROUPS OR CULTS, COULD HAVE MEMBERSHIPS NUMBERING IN THE HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS. WITH STRONG CELLS SPREAD ACROSS THE ENTIRE GLOBE.



"TO **CLEANSE THE EARTH....!!**

THAT'S THEIR GOAL. THEY WANT TO RID US OF THE WICKED AND THE EVIL.... SOOOO, THESE **WHACK-JOBS** THINK BLOWING UP KIDS IS THE BEST WAY TO GET THAT MESSAGE ACROSS.

FRIGGIN' IDIOTS!

"WE'VE SEEN THESE KIND OF TERROR GROUPS POPPING UP ONLINE ALL OVER THE WORLD. AND NOW WE HAVE POSSIBLE HOMETOWN ISIS WANNABES IN OUR OWN BACKYARD. ONES THAT WANT YOUR KIDS. I DON'T SHY AWAY FROM THE DARK STUFF VIEWERS, I'M HERE FOR THE TRUTH. AND THE TRUTH IS MY GUNS ARE **LOCKED AND LOADED!** I HOPE THEY TRY



TWO HUNDRED
MILES NORTH
OF BROOKLYN.

GOD TOLD
US THAT HE WOULD
KILL THE FIRSTBORN
SONS OF EGYPT. THAT
HIS WAS THE WAY OF
RIGHTESOUSNESS.



IN LEVITICUS
HE SAYS: EAT THE
FLESH OF YOUR
SONS

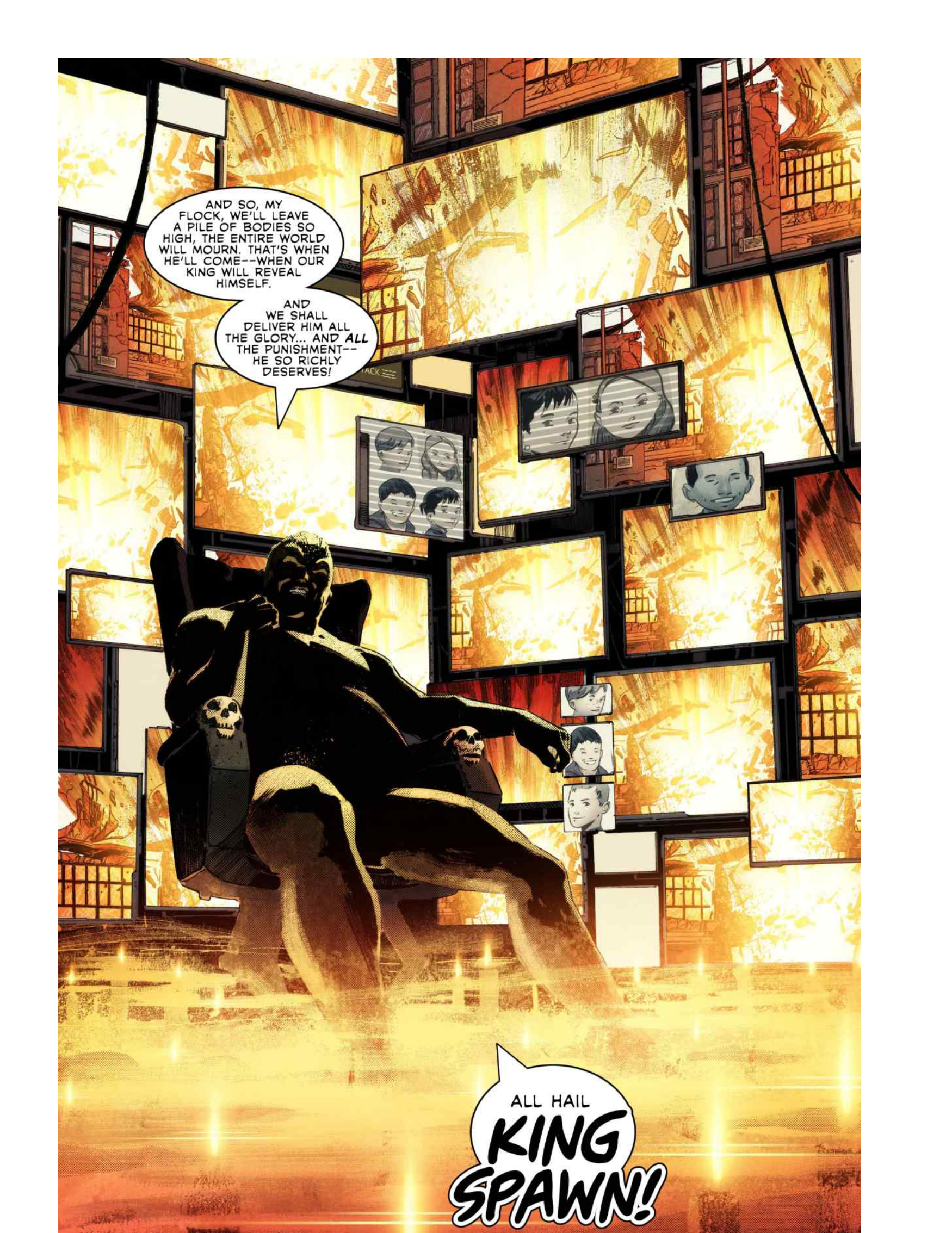


AND IN
PSLAMS: 137 THE
LORD IMPLORES
US TO DO
WHAT?

**SMASH
THE HEADS OF
THE LITTLE
ONES!**

PRECISELY.



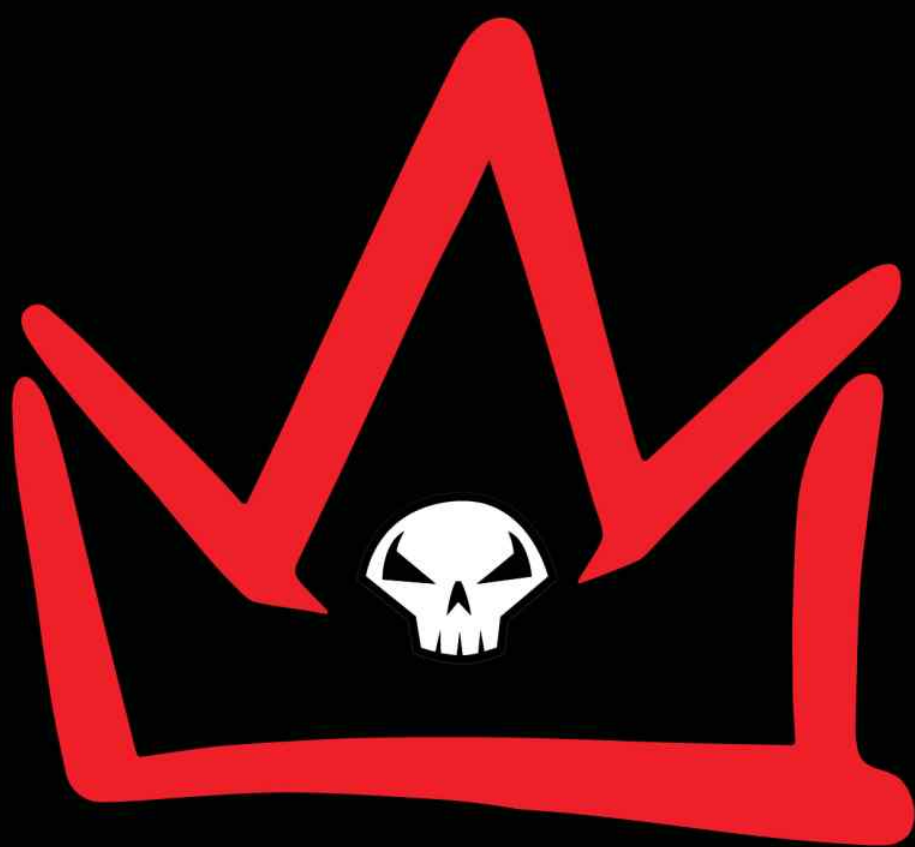


AND SO, MY
FLOCK, WE'LL LEAVE
A PILE OF BODIES SO
HIGH, THE ENTIRE WORLD
WILL MOURN. THAT'S WHEN
HE'LL COME--WHEN OUR
KING WILL REVEAL
HIMSELF.

AND
WE SHALL
DELIVER HIM ALL
THE GLORY... AND **ALL**
THE PUNISHMENT--
HE SO RICHLY
DESERVES!

ALL HAIL
**KING
SPAWN!**





“Haunt”

FOR FIVE WEEKS, DANIEL KILGORE HAS ATTEMPTED TO LIVE WHAT OTHERS CALL "A NORMAL LIFE." IT WASN'T PLANNED, BUT SOMETHING SPARKED INSIDE HIM THE MOMENT HE MET LYDIA.

I WISH THE WEATHER STAYED LIKE THIS EVERY DAY.

ME TOO.

BUT, WHEN IT'S CRAPPY OUT, IT'LL REMIND US HOW GLORIOUS TODAY WAS.

GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU GETTING HUNGRY? WE CAN GO GRAB A BITE TO EAT IF YOU WANT.

HOW ABOUT I COOK FOR YOU AT YOUR PLACE?

YOU COOK? SINCE WHEN?

ARE YOU DOUBTING MY SKILLS?

DON'T KNOW, HAVEN'T TASTED ANYTHING YET.

SERIOUSLY? MY FALAFEL IS WORLD FAMOUS; YOU JERK.

HEY!... STOP TICKLING.

NOT 'TIL YOU APOLOGIZE!

LYDIA HAD COME INTO HIS LIFE JUST WHEN HE NEEDED SOMETHING POSITIVE TO GRASP ONTO, AND SHE LITERALLY MADE HIM FEEL 'DIFFERENT.'

BUT THE FACT DANIEL CAN'T SHARE HIS SECRETS WITH HER IS THE ONLY THING THAT STILL BOTHERS HIM.

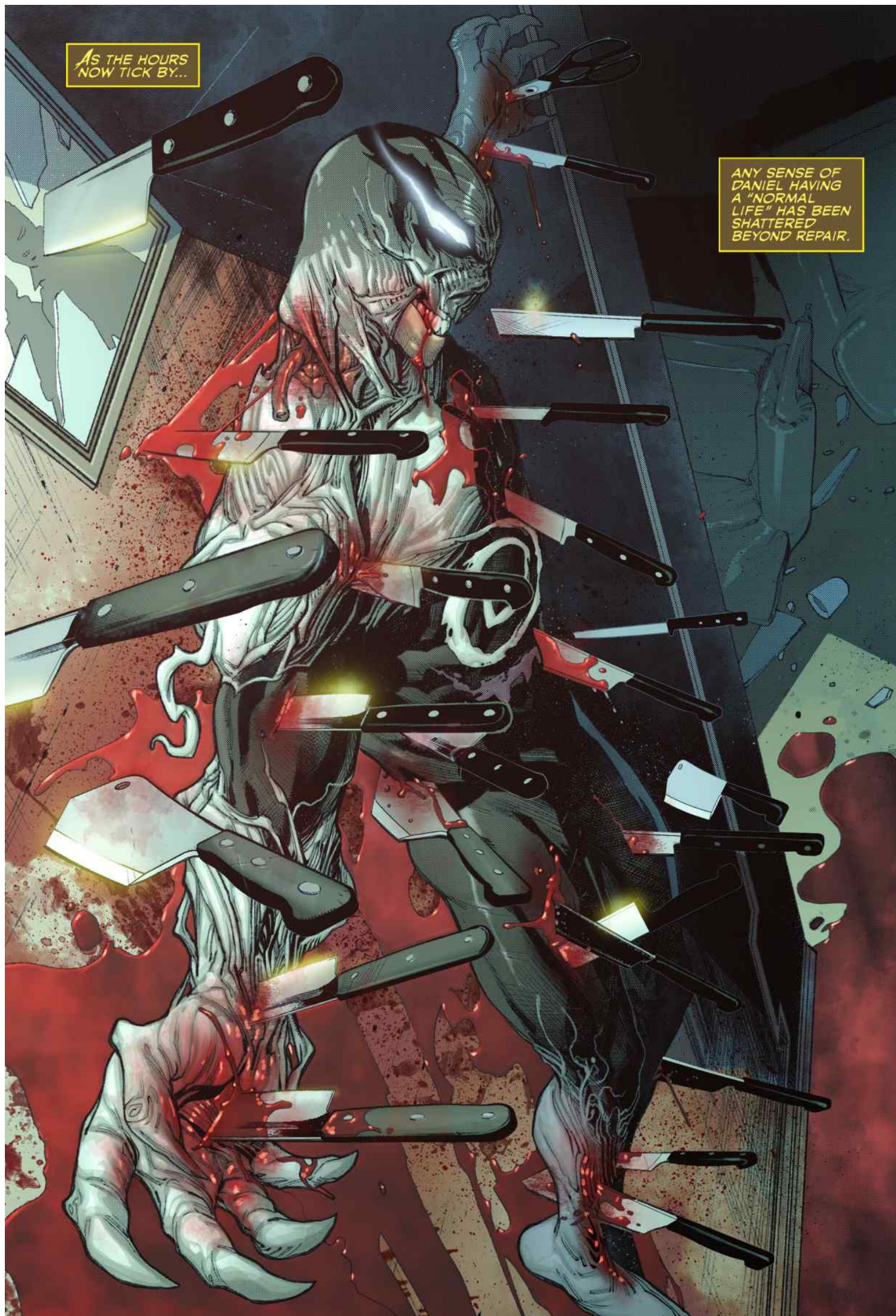
IT SMELLS GOOD, LYDIA.

THANKS. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER KNIVES I CAN USE?

SURE, THERE'S A WHOLE DRAWER FULL NEXT TO THE SINK.

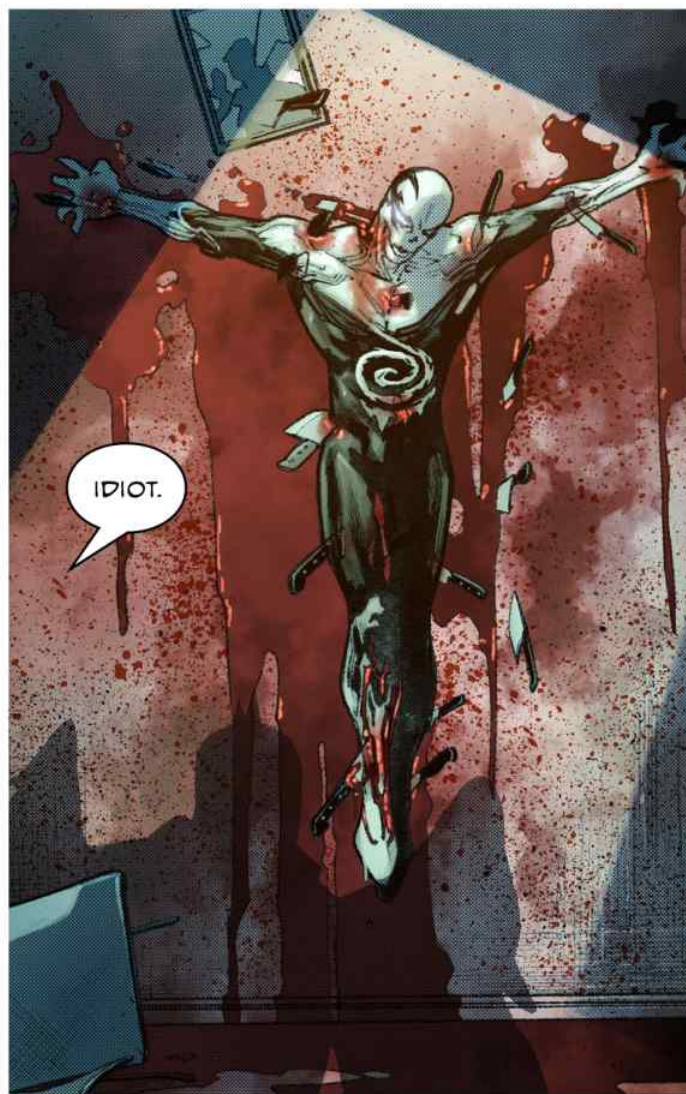
AS THE HOURS
NOW TICK BY...

ANY SENSE OF
DANIEL HAVING
A "NORMAL
LIFE" HAS BEEN
SHATTERED
BEYOND REPAIR.





IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND A VOICE WAS TELLING HIM, "THIS IS ALL TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE." BUT HE WAS SO DESPERATE TO CLING TO ANY NORMALCY, HE IGNORED THOSE INSTINCTS.



IDIOT.



shup

THEY KNEW YOU'D FALL INTO THEIR TRAP.



THEY'RE ALWAYS
LOOKING TO EXPLOIT
THE "NEWBORN"
HEROES.

AND
THEIR
NAIVETE.

MINUTES
LATER...



HOW'S
YOUR
PAIN?

SHITTY.

YOU'RE
STILL LOSING
BLOOD. THAT
NEEDS TO
STOP.

ANGELIC RAYS
PULSATE TOWARDS
THE HERO CALLED
HAUNT.



LYDIA...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE SHE
WAS ONE OF
THEM.





THEY EACH
OF THEM **TOOK**
SOMETHING FROM
ME TO PROVE
THEIR POINT.

SO,
PREPARE
YOURSELF, ANYONE
WHO BEARS THAT
SYMBOL ON YOUR
COSTUME'S CHEST...
SCARES THEM.

THAT'S
WHY THEY'VE
INFECTED IT--
YOUR COSTUME,
BEGINNING TODAY,
IS GOING TO
SLOWLY POISON
YOU.



WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS FOR
ME?

BECAUSE
OF YOUR BROTHER.
IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM,
I'D TRULY BE BLIND. I
PROMISED I'D REPAY HIS
FAVOR. NEXT TIME
YOU SEE HIM...



TELL HIM
WE'RE
EVEN.

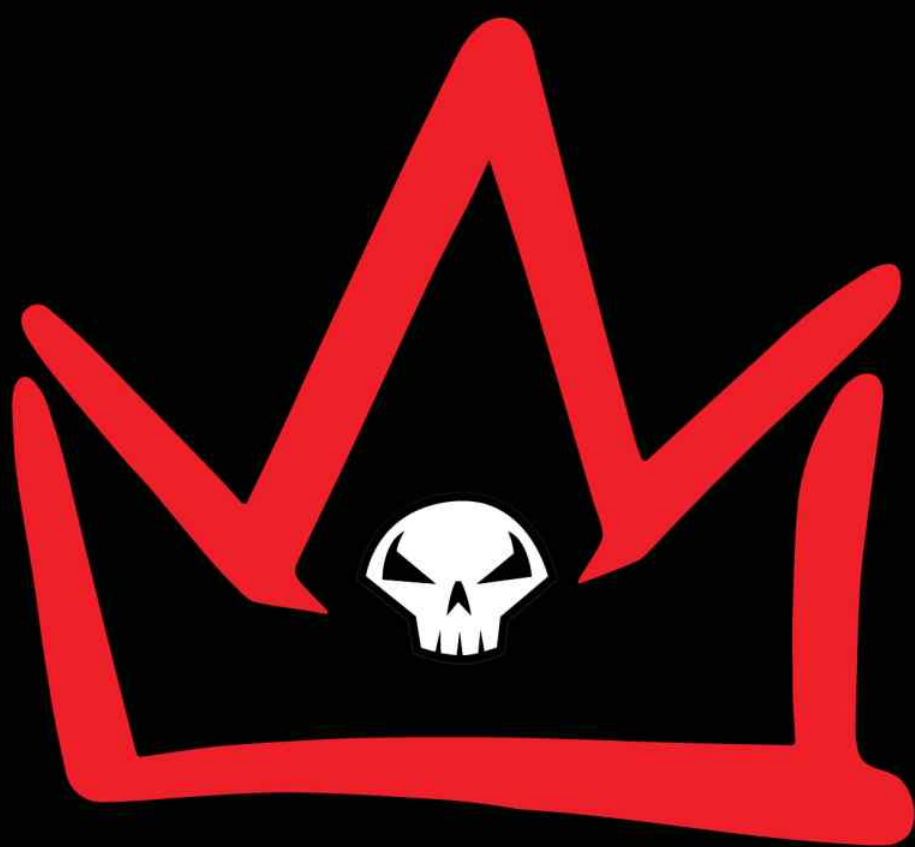


AS THE EVENING
PASSES, DANIEL
IS VISITED BY
HIS DEAD
BROTHER KURT.

YOU HEARD
EVERYTHING?

I DID.
AND I'VE
NEVER MET
THAT GUY. I'D
REMEMBER
THAT.





“Nightmare”



ARE THE HUMANS AWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE YET?

NO. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE OUR MISSION FORWARD UNDETECTED.



WHAT ABOUT SIMMONS?

HE'S BUSY CHASING SOME OF THE OTHERS WHO FELL THROUGH 'THE HOLE.' HE'LL BE DISTRACTED FOR QUITE SOME TIME.



WE'LL NEED HIM SOON. WHAT IF THEY KILL HIM BEFORE THEN?

THAT'S UNLIKELY. THERE'S A HANDFUL OF OTHER HELL-SPAWNS TRYING TO PROTECT HIM.



AND YOU? YOU'RE MEETING THAT GOAL TOO?



THUNK



I HAVE.



AND THE ANGELS--MOST OF THEM HAVE GONE SOFT, SO IT HASN'T BEEN MUCH OF AN EFFORT. IT'S TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT I'VE DONE TO SO MANY OF THEM.

WE'LL BE REUNITED SOON ENOUGH, BROTHER, AND I'LL BRING OUR ARMY WITH ME.

IF WHAT I'VE SEEN IS ANY INDICATION, IT'LL BE A BLOODBATH. THESE AGENTS OF GOD SEEM UNPREPARED OR DISINTERESTED IN THIS WAR. AT LEAST A LARGE PORTION ARE.



WHAT
DO YOU THINK
HAPPENED TO
THEM?

COMPLACENCY.
THE SAME SIN THAT'S
ALWAYS HELD BACK
THE HUMANS.

SADLY,
SOME WHO
SERVED ME ALSO
FELL PREY TO THAT
COMPLACENCY.
I'M ACTUALLY
ENTERTAINING TWO
OF THEM RIGHT
NOW.

THEN I
WON'T RUIN
YOUR EVENING,
DEAR BROTHER,
BECAUSE THOSE OF
US LOCKED HERE IN
HELL CAN'T WAIT
TO FOLLOW YOUR
COMMANDS.



DID YOU
HEAR
THAT?!

SOME ARE
STILL LOYAL
TO OUR
CAUSE!

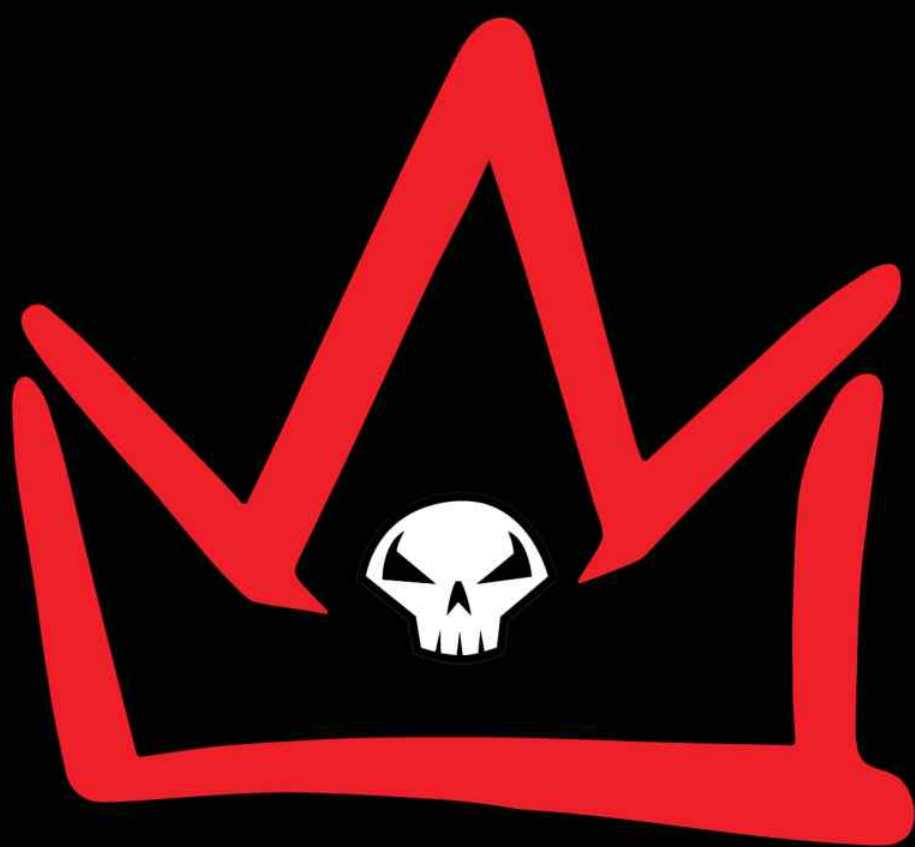


BUT
NOT YOU.
I DISAPPEAR
FOR A WHILE
AND YOU IGNORE
THE MISSION AND
THE ORDERS
I GAVE YOU.
WHY?

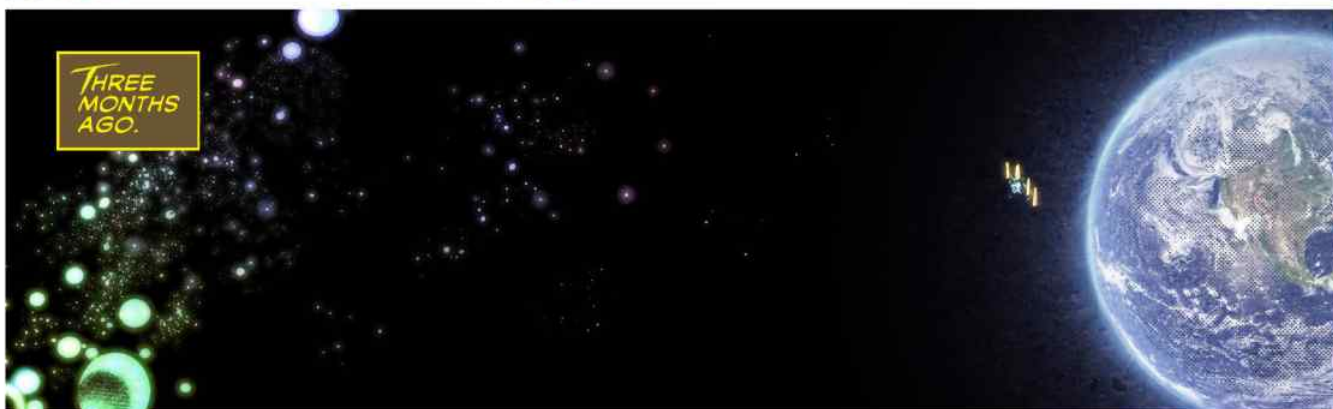
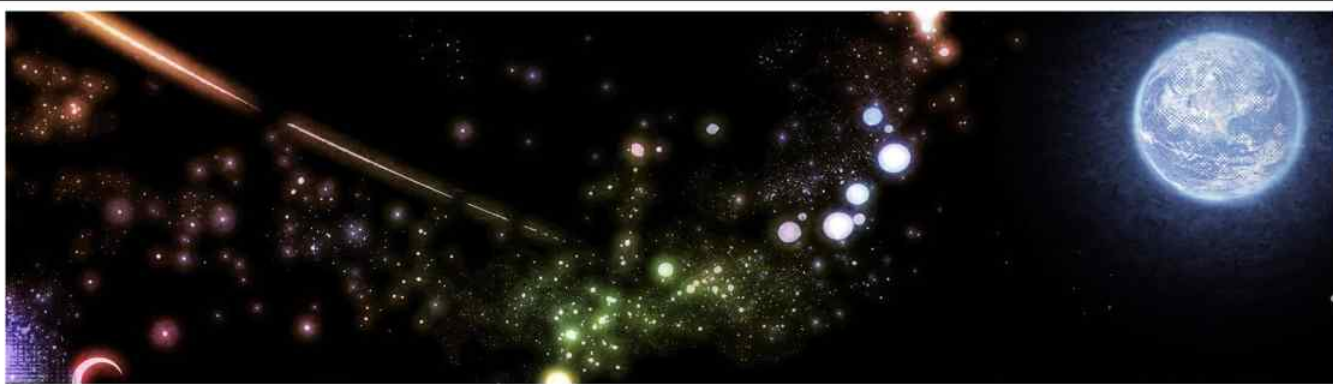
SO, YOU
COULD HAVE
A FANCY CAR AND
DIAMOND JEWELRY?
IS THAT ALL IT TOOK
TO WANT TO BE LIKE
THE HUMANS?
TO **ABANDON**
ME?!







“The Hero”



* See SPAWN #301 for the reason--Todd

FALLOUT FROM THAT MOMENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVEAL ITSELF TO THE WORLD FOR YEARS TO COME. THOUGH SOME OF ITS EFFECTS ARE MORE IMMEDIATE.

I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, ALEX, BUT MY JOB IS TO MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR MOM ARE SAFE.

IS THAT WHY MOM LEFT?

WHAT YOUR MOM AND I DO IS NOT YOUR BUSINESS, SON.

I DON'T WANT TO GO, I WANT TO BE WITH MOMMY.

I'M NOT ARGUING WITH YOU. WE LEAVE FRIDAY, YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO PACK YOUR THINGS.



BUT NOW, DADDY HAS TO GET BACK TO WORK.

I HATE YOU! AND YOU ALWAYS MAKE MOMMY CRY!



ALEX'S FATHER WILL NOT BE DISRESPECTED IN FRONT OF HIS PEERS.



GET HIM OUT OF HERE, NOW!



DAMN KID DOESN'T KNOW I'M SAVING HIS ASS!

THE OTHER CARTEL'S THREATS NEED TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY; WE NEED TO PROTECT OURSELVES. LET'S GET BACK TO OUR MEETING.

TELL KIYAMOTO HE'S GOT BABYSITTING DUTIES.



TERRIFIED, THE BOY
CRASHES INTO HIS
FATHER'S OFFICE.

WHERE'S
DAD?!

dad?

BUT IF HE WAS
HOPING FOR ANY
COMFORT THAT
WISH IS SUDDENLY
SHATTERED.

ODDLY, FOR A
FEW SECONDS,
ALEX FEELS A
SENSE OF CALM.

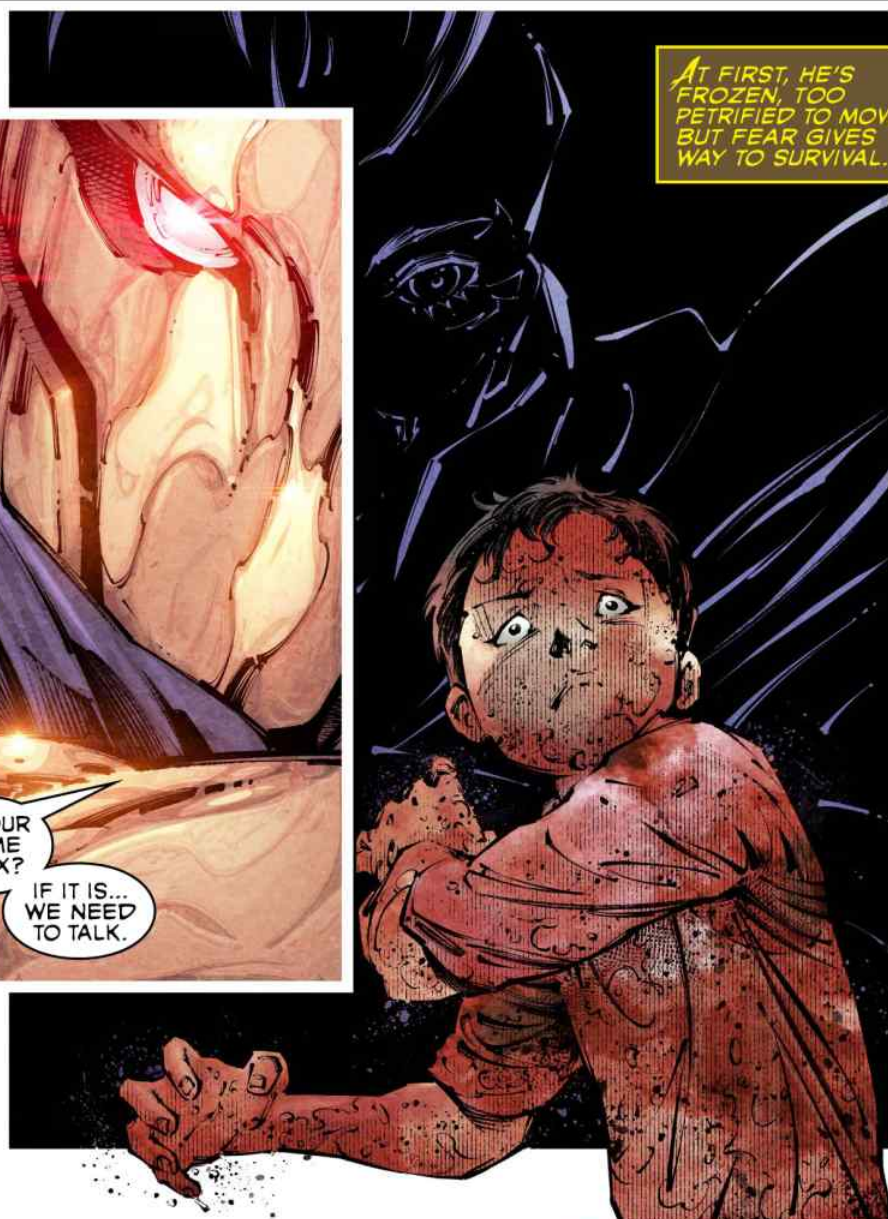
ALEX CONTINUES SCREAMING QUESTIONS
AT THE STOIC STRANGER AS THE MASS
OF RENDERED FLESH QUIETLY MAKE
BUBBLING NOISES. HUMAN CHUNKS
OF ANATOMY SETTLE TO THEIR FINAL
RESTING PLACE IN A STREAM OF
BLOOD AND HEAVING INTESTINES.





IS YOUR
NAME
ALEX?
IF IT IS...
WE NEED
TO TALK.

AT FIRST, HE'S
FROZEN, TOO
PETRIFIED TO MOVE,
BUT FEAR GIVES
WAY TO SURVIVAL.



AND SO,
HE RUNS.

AS HARD AND
FAST AS HE
POSSIBLY CAN.

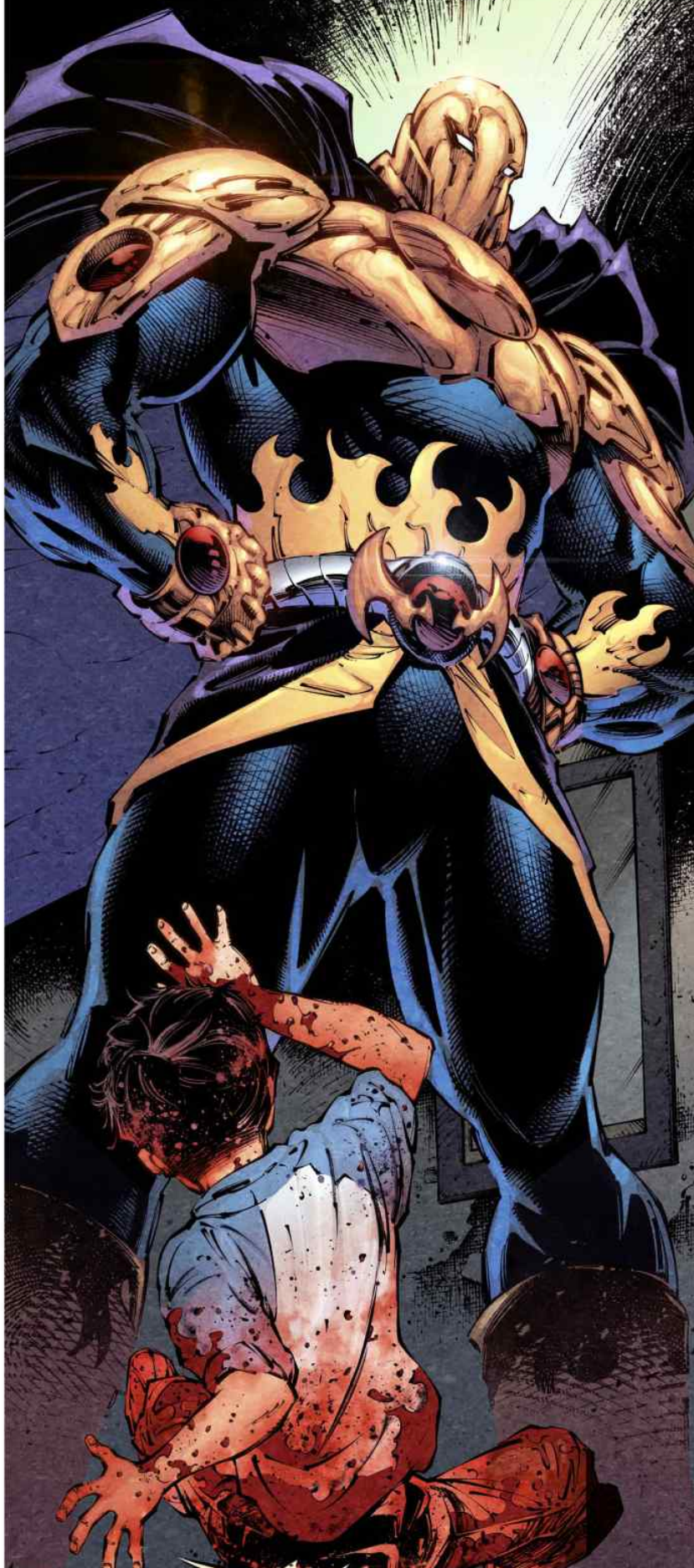


BUT THE BUILDING
IS SO MASSIVE,
WITH DOZENS OF
HALLWAYS CREATING
A MAZE, HE REALLY
DOESN'T KNOW
WHICH DIRECTION
TO TURN NEXT.



ONLY ONE GOAL
REMAINS CLEAR;
THAT'S TO ESCAPE!

THOUGH, IT SEEMS THAT MAY BE A FUTILE ATTEMPT AS THE COSTUMED PRESENCE IS SUDDENLY BLOCKING HIS PATH. ALEX COLLAPSES AND EMOTIONALLY BREAKS DOWN.



WHY'D YOU... HAVE TO KILL EVERYONE.



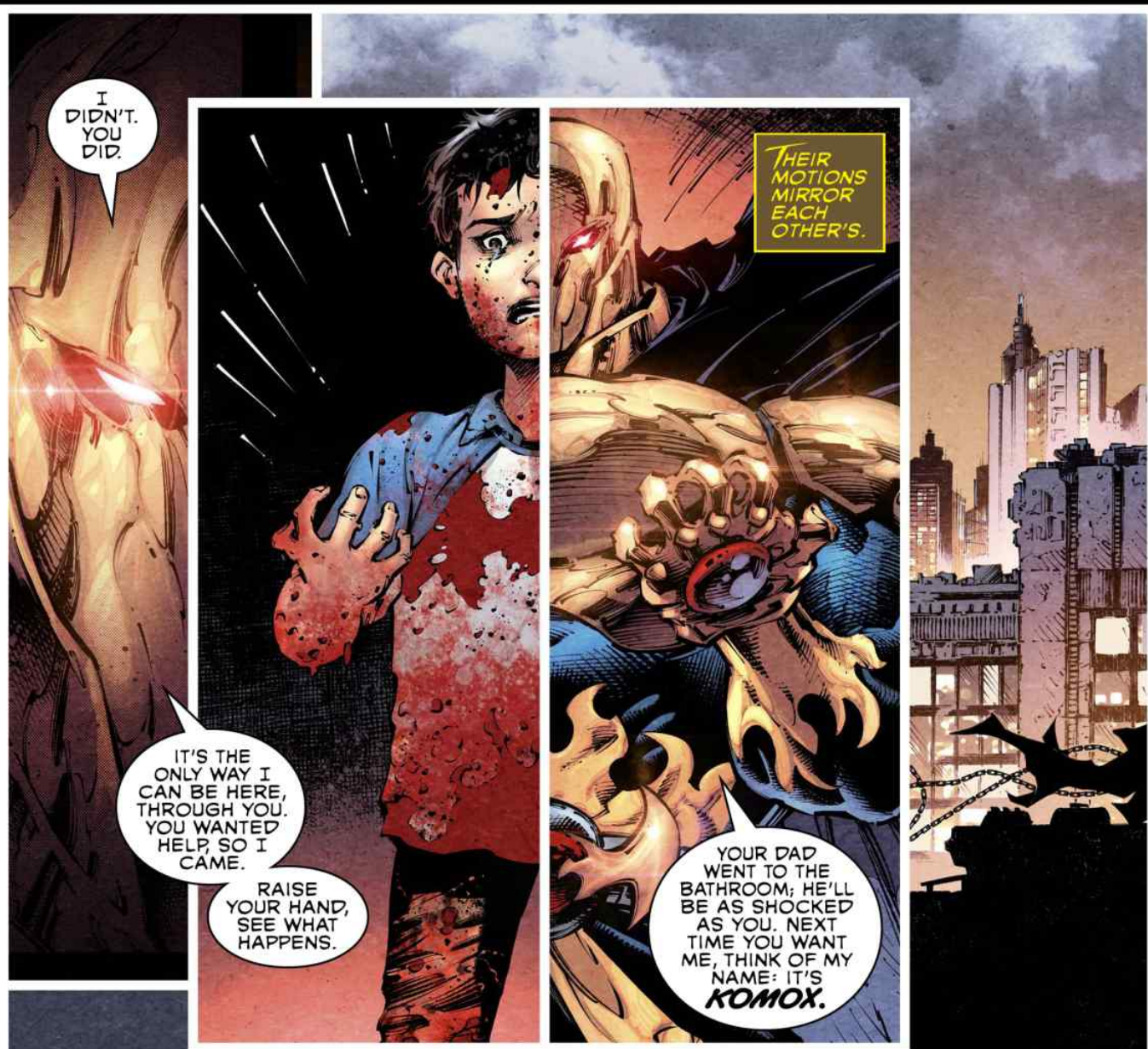
NOT EVERYONE, NOT YOUR DAD.

DAD'S ALIVE?!

HE IS. JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.



BUT YOU KILLED THE OTHERS?







“Gunslinger”

THE YEAR 1865.

HE'D BEEN LYING DEAD IN THAT FIELD FOR NEARLY A YEAR.

SO, THOSE THAT AMBUSHED AND SLAUGHTERED HIS CARAVAN COULD BE HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD BY NOW.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

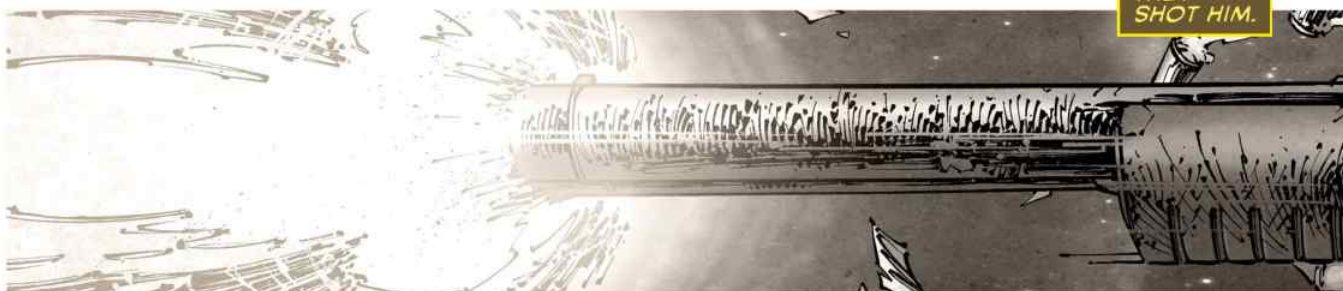
HE'S GOING TO HUNT THEM. ONE BY ONE UNTIL THEY PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO HIS SISTER. BUT HE'LL NEED SUPPLIES FIRST.

IT'S TIME TO REST.

AS THEY SETTLE FOR THE NIGHT,
FLASHES OF THE AMBUSH EXPLODE
IN HIS MIND. HIS ENEMIES, THEY
EACH TOOK A TURN.



THEY
SHOT HIM.



SLIT HIS
THROAT.



IMPALED HIM.



THEN
HANGED HIM.



AND THEIR
CROWNING TOUCH
WAS PEELING HIS
FACE OFF.





THEIR BRUTAL ATTACK ON HIM WAS REVENGE FOR HIM INTERFERING IN THEIR SADISTIC PLANS.



GUNSLINGER WAS SEEKING TO PROTECT HIS SISTER, AMY, NOTHING ELSE.

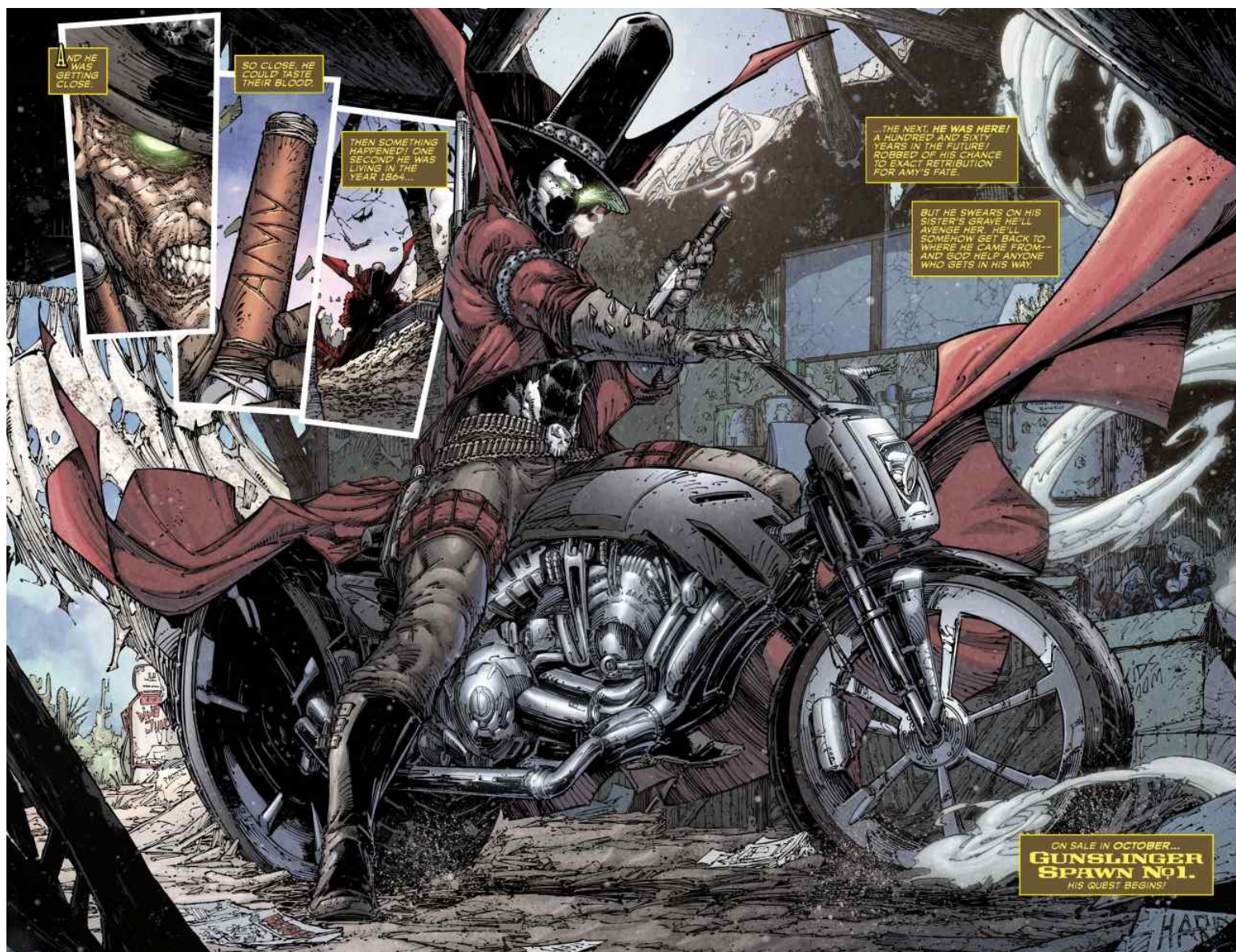
BUT THINGS GOT COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.



THAT'S WHY THEY CAME AFTER HIM. THEY WANTED REVENGE JUST AS BADLY AS GUNSLINGER DID.

WELL, THEY GOT THEIR SHOT. NOW IT WAS HIS TURN.





AND HE WAS GETTING CLOSE.

SO CLOSE HE COULD TASTE THEIR BLOOD.

THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED! ONE SECOND HE WAS LIVING IN THE YEAR 1864...

THE NEXT HE WAS HERE! A HUNDRED AND SIXTY YEARS IN THE FUTURE! ROBBED OF HIS CHANCE TO EXACT RETRIBUTION FOR AMY'S FATE.

BUT HE SWEARS ON HIS SISTER'S GRAVE HE'LL AVENGE HER. HE'LL SOMEHOW GET BACK TO WHERE HE CAME FROM—AND GOD HELP ANYONE WHO GETS IN HIS WAY.

ON SALE IN OCTOBER...
**GUNSLINGER
SPAWN NO.1.**
HIS QUEST BEGINS!

SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

TODD McFARLANE INTERVIEWS SEAN LEWIS

You wrote an original series for Image Comics called Coyotes, one of my first published works was in a book called Coyote by Epic Comics. I write Spawn and now you write King Spawn... Coincidence?!?

No, this has always been the plan. I've had this in motion since Coyote dropped in March of '85. It feels good to finally admit that.

As a comics writer that has worked for large publishers as well as on creator owned projects, what are some of the challenges that you have faced with wanting to tell your stories?

I think when it's creator owned there is no one to please but yourself and your collaborators. So, those experiences are usually really enjoyable. Outside of Image there can sometimes be mandates outside of the book you're writing and that can get tricky. There have been times where I've been hired late in the game by a larger publisher and you inherit a lot of things you knew

nothing about. So, instead of going wild with your story you spend most of your time trying to get all the pieces you inherited to fit together. It's always better when you can be at the front of the process when it's all getting laid out.

Javi Fernandez has been turning in some of the best art of his career on King Spawn. Does his raw and visceral style influence your writing much?

YES. Javi's art is insane, it's a huge influence. I remember right when you hired me, going through his instagram and looking at certain pages and saying, that has to be in Spawn. I think with each issue, I get more informed by what he's doing and now we even hop on messenger and I'll just ask what do you want to draw- or what would be the best way for you to break down this page? His style is so visceral and energetic and just DIRTY, in the best way. It would be dumb to ignore it and not let it drive a lot of my decisions for how the book plays out.

Why choose to work on a Spawn book?

Who would say no to this? Honestly, I think I feel most at home with darker characters. Loners. Morally ambiguous anti-heroes. People who got a shit deal but are going to make someone pay for it. So, when the possibility came up, I leaped. I read Spawn as a kid. I read Miller's Daredevil and Dark Knight's. I read Ennis' Punisher and Preacher (the nuns, loved me and my reading material at St. Joe's!). I think the idea of a world that was dark and manipulating us and demanded us to be adults before we were ready, made sense to me. And who better to go to war with all the darkness of that world than SPAWN? It's been a joy.



SEAN LEWIS INTERVIEWS TODD McFARLANE

Todd! We are here! King Spawn 1! This is nuts and audacious and I want to know... why a whole universe? Most people branch out with a single book or a mini series. Why were you like no I want a whole world?

Actually, I didn't just decide to create a whole new universe... most of it had already been built over the thirty-year run of the original SPAWN title. What began to become more apparent to me is that having only one book would not give me the number of pages needed each month to be able to expand upon so many characters already in existence.

The thing about storing up three decades worth of characters and stories is that when the time finally came (like now) I had a bunch of ingredients already. The bigger plan is to begin adding to those already existing pieces. Let's all circle back in five years and see how this ambitious project is moving forward.

I've been so lucky to see the art for a bunch of the books. The artists? How do you find them? What are you looking for? They've all been so unique and completely incredible.

On the artist front, the first conceit is that you find the very best talent that is "available" at the time, as one would assume most of the top artists would already be working on other projects. But, to my surprise, I didn't have to "settle" on any of the artists I've hired. Some of the most visually exciting artists were excited enough to want to hear more about what I was planning. And if you've read SPAWN'S UNIVERSE #1 already you know what I'm talking about.

As for this particular book, I was purposefully looking for someone that would give a different interpretation visually to the Spawn character and his world, that would not be an exact match to the look on the regular SPAWN title. Since there will now be two monthly titles dedicated to the Spawn character, I thought it would be important to give two looks and let the readers decide if both books are worth their hard-earned money each month.

Javi Fernandez fit that bill perfectly for me! I saw one specific image he posted on his Instagram page that blew me away. The mood. The style and atmosphere of that particular drawing felt exactly like what I was looking for in this book. And Javi's enthusiasm, from the get-go, was so obvious from his emails, I knew I had found the right person. And I can promise all of you that this first issue of KING SPAWN, is just the beginning of what you can expect from him in the future. He has already drawn the first four issues and each, in all honesty, has gotten better and better with each page. Plus, I am always envious of artists that have skills I never will.



Image of **TODD McFARLANE** (on left)

When did you know you wanted to expand? And did a specific thing or moment trigger it? I'm curious about that a Ha moment where you're like I have to do this.

The answer to this question is much like my first response above. But there were two moments that cemented it for me; first was I was coming close to releasing the 300th issue of the original SPAWN title. I knew that a lot of eyes would be on that book, so if I was ever going to attempt this thing that has been in the back of my mind, since the formation of IMAGE COMICS way back in 1992, now would be the time. And so, the story in issue 300 was a way for me to plant some of the catalysts that would lead up to my expansion of this shared universe.

The second moment, that happened recently, was seeing how many pages I was devoting to other characters in Spawn's own book. It struck me as odd that his book was becoming more of a team-up title instead of one devoted to a singular character. And the only way to ever solve this potential problem is that I needed to find other outlets for those stories and characters. Now I have the beginning of those outlets with this monthly title along with the soon to be released GUNSLINGER SPAWN #1 (in October) and the team book called THE SCORCHED #1 (in December).

THE YEAR OF...



GUNSLINGER

S P A W N

#1

On sale **OCTOBER**

THE SCORCHED

#1

On sale **DECEMBER**

GUNSLINGER

S P A W N



OCTOBER 2021